



LAW OFFICES
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7060
FACSIMILE (202) 293-7860

November 16, 1999

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JC678 U.S. PRO
09/440690
11/16/99

Re: Application of Frank HAGEBARTH
A PROCESS FOR THE AUTOMATIC CREATION AND MONITORING OF A
PROGRESS PLAN FOR A TRAINING COURSE BY A COMPUTER
Our Ref. Q056494

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 17 sheets of the specification, claims, 1 sheet of formal drawings, executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney. Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO form 1449, and Preliminary Amendment.

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE
CALCULATING THE FEE**

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>21</u>	-	20	=	<u>1</u>	x	\$18.00	=	\$18.00
Independent claims	<u>2</u>	-	3	=	<u></u>	x	\$78.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee									\$760.00

TOTAL FILING FEE	\$778.00
Recordation of Assignment	\$40.00
TOTAL FEE	\$818.00

TOTAL FEE
Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$778.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from November 17, 1998 based on German Application No. 19852896.5. The priority document is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant
By: David J. Cushing
David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Frank HAGEBARTH

Attorney Docket Q56494

Appln. No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: November 16, 1999

Examiner:

For: A PROCESS FOR THE AUTOMATIC CREATION AND MONITORING OF A
PROGRESS PLAN FOR A TRAINING COURSE BY A COMPUTER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, delete the heading "Description" and insert --Background of the Invention--.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the heading --Summary of the Invention--.

Page 10, after the line numbered 15, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Drawing--.

after the line numbered 22, insert the heading --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "one of Claims 1 to 3" and insert --Claim 1--.

AMENDMENT

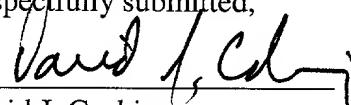
Attorney Docket Q56503

- Claim 7, line 1, delete "one of Claims 1 to 6" and insert --Claim 1--.
- Claim 8, line 1, delete "one of Claims 1 to 7" and insert --Claim 7--.
- Claim 10, line 1, delete "or 9".
- Claim 11, line 1, delete "or 10".
- Claim 12, line 1, delete "one of Claims 9 to 11" and insert --Claim 9--.
- Claim 13, line 1, delete "one of Claims 9 to 12" and insert --Claim 9--.
- Claim 14, line 3, delete "one of ";
line 4, delete "Claims 1 to 13" and insert --Claim 1--.
- Claim 17, line 1, delete "or 16".
- Claim 18, line 1, delete "one of Claims 15 to 17" and insert --Claim 15--.
- Claim 19, line 1, delete "one of Claims 15 to 18" and insert --Claim 15--.

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: November 16, 1999

Title: A Process for the Automatic Creation and Monitoring of a Progress Plan for a Training Course by a Computer

5

Description

The present invention relates to a process for the automatic creation and monitoring of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit by a computer.

The present invention further relates to a computer for the automatic creation and monitoring of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit.

15

The computer in which such a process is implemented is generally a microcomputer, in particular a personal computer (PC). A process of the above mentioned type is used in the framework of computer-assisted learning or computer-based training (CBT). CBT is the generic term for interactively imparting knowledge by means of a computer. From the prior art a CBT process is known which operates off-line and which, from a local storage medium, for example a CD-ROM, makes the training units of the training course available to the trainee on a display unit of the computer for study purposes. However, CBT processes are also known which utilize the facilities of modern computer networks, for example an in-house intranet or the world-wide internet, to present the training units of the training course. In the CBT processes which operate using computer networks, a specific computer in the computer network, the so-called server, is accessed by the trainee via his computer by means of the computer network. The training units of the training courses, the training environment, and functions for the management of the training courses are stored in the server.

In the known CBT processes, the trainee himself determines

whether, and at which times, he would like to study a training course he has commenced. The study activity of the trainee, in particular his work input into the training course, is not monitored. The trainee must himself plan,

- 5 coordinate and monitor his progress through the individual training units.

The known CBT processes are shifting the training process increasingly into the area of responsibility of the

- 10 trainee. A very high degree of self-initiative, self-discipline and learning ability is demanded of the trainee.

One of the greatest problems here resides in the motivation of the trainee to study the training course over a

- 15 relatively long time interval with uniform input. In the starting phase the novel training method of CBT is of interest to the trainee. However, most training courses extend over a long time interval which can involve a plurality of training units and a plurality of sittings.

- 20 At each sitting the trainee spends a specified period of time studying the training course. The study time for the training course can extend over days (for example to train sales personnel to sell new products), weeks, or even months (for example to learn a new foreign language).

25

Over relatively long time intervals the trainee's motivation often falls considerably as, in contrast to a taught training course, so-called classroom training, in CBT a course leader who can monitor, urge on, or motivate

- 30 the trainee is not normally present. In CBT the trainee is himself responsible for the planning and coordination of the training course. However, it is difficult to plan accurately in advance for such long time intervals. For this reason, often no progress plan is created for the
35 training course. When the trainee has the time and inclination, he studies one or more training units of the

training course. Because of this problem, once commenced a CBT process often is continued only with a struggle or is discontinued entirely. Consequently classroom training is often considerably more efficient and results in better
5 training success for the trainee than CBT.

An object of the present invention is therefore to design and further develop a process of the type referred to in the introduction so as to increase the efficiency of the
10 training course.

To achieve this object, commencing from the process of the type referred to in the introduction, the invention proposes a process which is characterised by the following
15 steps:

- definition by the computer of first time units which represent the time periods which a trainee would like to spend on the training course,
 - definition by the computer of second time units which represent the time periods required to execute the training units of the training course,
 - creation by the computer of a progress plan for the execution of the training course in dependence upon the first time units and the second time units, where for each training unit the progress plan specifies a time by which the trainee is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit and
 - monitoring by the computer as to whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan.
- 20
25
30

In accordance with the invention, it has been recognised that the efficiency of CBT processes can be particularly increased by monitoring the study activity of the trainee,
35 in particular the time input by the trainee into studying the training units of the training course. In contrast to

classroom training, no course leader is required to monitor the trainee. Rather, the monitoring is performed automatically by a computer. For the monitoring of the trainee, firstly a progress plan for the execution of the 5 training course is created on the basis of information provided by the trainee or on the basis of information stored in the computer. During the training course the computer then monitors that this progress plan is adhered to.

10

In the process according to the invention, in particular the following steps are executed. At the start of a training course the computer asks the trainee which training course he would like to study. The trainee also 15 indicates the length of time within which he would like to complete the training course. Finally the trainee specifies first time units which represent the time periods he would like to spend on the training course within this length of time. The first time units comprise for example 20 the number of hours each day for which the trainee wishes to study or information as to whether he wishes to study at weekends or on holidays.

The first time units can be defined by direct inputting of 25 the required time information by the trainee. However, it is also conceivable for the computer to provide different personal categories for selection by the trainee. Each of these personal categories is associated with specific learning behaviour patterns, in particular first time 30 units. To define the first time units, the trainee simply selects one of these personal categories.

The computer also defines the second time units which 35 represent the time periods required to execute the training units of the training course. The second time units can either be predefined in the computer or are assigned to the

personal categories stored in the computer and are defined on the basis of the personal category selected by the trainee. Finally it is also conceivable for the trainee to individually input the time which he believes he will

5 require to study a training course.

In dependence upon the first time units and the second time units, the computer then automatically creates a progress plan for the execution of the training course. The

10 progress plan precisely specifies which training unit is to be made available to the trainee at which time. For each training unit, the progress plan also specifies a time by which the trainee is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit.

15 During the progression of the training course the computer monitors whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan. If the progress plan is not adhered to, the computer can

20 implement suitable measures. Similarly as in the case of a course leader in classroom training, these measures can consist of drawing the trainee's attention to the time delay, presenting the trainee with additional units to be studied as a penalty, extending the duration of the

25 training course or, as a last resort, excluding the trainee from the training course.

By means of the process according to the invention, for the first time it is possible to monitor the time input by the

30 trainee without a course leader. In this way the motivation of the trainee, and the training success attainable by means of CBT, can be decisively increased. The process according to the invention has a particularly high degree of efficiency as it combines the advantages of

35 classroom training (monitoring of the work input by the trainee) with the advantages of CBT (captivation of the

trainee by appealing multimedia presentation of the training units).

In accordance with an advantageous further development of
5 the invention, it is proposed that the trainee be notified if the corresponding training unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan. Often the trainee only becomes aware of his deficiency when notified.

Moreover, the trainee is generally encouraged by the
10 notification to spend more time on the training course.

The trainee has the sense that he is being monitored and develops an ambition to adhere to the time specifications for the training course. As a result he will again work harder on the training course.

15

In accordance with an advantageous embodiment, it is proposed that the result of the monitoring is stored. The stored monitoring results can then be accessed at any time.

They can be used to create a type of certificate at the
20 end of the training course or to allow the trainee, during the training course, to check on his advancement or level in the training course. When several trainees are working independently on a common training course, in CBT normally there is hardly any sense of competition as one trainee
25 generally receives no information from the other trainees.

To foster a sense of competition between several trainees, and thus greater input, the monitoring results of the trainees can also be publicised so as to be accessible to each trainee on a training course. The publication can
30 take place for example on a blackboard or on a specified web page of a computer network to which all subscribers to a training course have access.

To enable the progress plan to be adapted to new factors
35 during the training course, in accordance with an advantageous further development it is proposed that the

progress plan be recreated if the corresponding training unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan. In this way the trainee is not subjected to excessive time pressure if he cannot adhere to the times specified for a training unit by the progress plan.

Instead, the progress plan is adapted to the new factors, for example in that the time by which the trainee is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit is postponed.

10

In the recreation of the progress plan, new values for the first and second time units can be taken into account.

This can be useful if it is anticipated that in future the trainee will be able to spend less time on the training

15

course. It is also conceivable for the progress plan to be recreated if new factors arise which affect the time frame for the training course set in the progress plan, for example if the trainee wishes to complete the training course within a shorter time interval than originally

20

provided.

In accordance with a particularly preferred further development, it is proposed that the training course be terminated if, more than once, the corresponding training

25

unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan. The number of times the time specified in the progress plan can be overshot before the training course is terminated can be freely determined. In the case of very strict handling of the process, it is conceivable

30

for the training course to be terminated after just one overshooting of the time specified in the progress plan. A training course studied on a free-will basis can permit frequent overshooting of the specified time before the training course is terminated. Upon the resumption of the training course following the termination, the training course must again be worked through from the start. The

trainee is preferably notified of the termination of the training course.

To inform the trainee what the training course progress
5 plan is like, it is proposed that the progress plan is sent to the trainee following its creation. The trainee then has the option of preparing for specific training units.

In accordance with another, particularly preferred further
10 development of the invention, it is proposed that the training units are made available to the trainee via a computer network.

Advantageously, the training units are made available to
15 the trainee via an in-house computer network (intranet). Alternatively or additionally, it is proposed that the training units are made available to the trainee via a global computer network, in particular the internet.

20 Via the computer network, the trainee can advantageously be notified via electronic mail (e-mail) that the corresponding training unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan, or that the training course has been terminated. In accordance with a preferred
25 embodiment, the progress plan can also be sent to the trainee via electronic mail (e-mail). Alternatively, it is proposed that the progress plan be made available on a web page to which the trainee has access. The study progress of the trainee, or other information relating to the
30 training course, can also be made available on the web page.

The implementation of the process according to the invention in the form of a control element for a computer
35 is of particular significance. Here the control element stores a program which can run on the computer and is

suitable to execute the process according to the invention.

Thus in this case the invention is implemented by a program stored on the control element so that this control element, provided with the program, constitutes the

5 invention in the same way as the process which the program is suitable to execute. An electric storage medium, for example a compact disc (CD), floppy disc or the like, can be used in particular as control element.

- 10 A further object of the present invention consists in designing and further developing a computer of the type referred to in the introduction so as to increase the efficiency of the training course.
- 15 To achieve this object, commencing from the computer of the type referred to in the introduction, the invention proposes that the computer should comprise:
- means for defining first time units which represent the time periods which a trainee would like to spend
 - 20 on the training course,
 - means for defining second time units which represent the time periods required to execute the training units of the training course,
 - means for creating a progress plan by the computer for
 - 25 the execution of the training course in dependence upon the first time units and second time units where, for each training unit, the progress plan specifies a time by which the trainee is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit and
 - 30 - means for monitoring by the computer whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan.

In accordance with a preferred further development, it is
35 proposed that the computer comprises means for notifying the trainee if the corresponding training unit has not been

completed by the time specified in the progress plan.

Advantageously, the computer comprises means for storing the monitoring result.

5

In accordance with a preferred embodiment, the computer comprises means for sending the progress plan to the trainee following its creation.

- 10 In accordance with another further development of the present invention, the computer is connected to a computer network. The computer is preferably connected to an in-house computer network (intranet). Alternatively, it is proposed that the computer is connected to a global
- 15 computer network, in particular the internet.

In the following a preferred embodiment of the present invention will be explained in detail making reference to the drawing in which:

20

Figure 1 is a flow diagram of the process according to the invention.

- 25 In Figure 1 the process according to the invention has been provided with the overall reference symbol 1. The process 1 serves for the automatic creation and monitoring by a computer of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit. At the start of the process 1, in a step 2 first time units are defined which represent the time periods a trainee 3 would like to spend on the training course. As shown in Figure 1, the first time units can be defined by the computer by interaction (broken line) with the trainee 3. However, the first time units can also be automatically defined by the computer.
- 30 Thus the computer can define specified values for the first time units, for example in accordance with a personal
- 35

category to which the trainee belongs.

In a following step 4, second time units are automatically defined by the computer. The second time units represent
5 the time periods necessary to execute the training units of the training course.

In a following step 5, a progress plan is automatically created by the computer. For each training unit, the
10 progress plan specifies a time by which the trainee 3 is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit.

In a following step 6 of the process 1, the first training unit of the training course is made available. This
15 training unit is studied or executed by the trainee 3 interactively (broken line). In a following enquiry 7 it is checked whether the first training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan. If this is the case, in a following enquiry 8 it is checked
20 whether all the training units of this training course have already been made available to the trainee 3. If this is not the case, at this point the process branches to step 6 and makes the next training unit available to the trainee.

25 If the training unit has not been completed by the specified time (enquiry 7), in a further enquiry 9 it is checked whether this has already occurred more than once. If this is the case, the training course is terminated at this point and a corresponding notification is sent to the
30 trainee 3 (step 10). If this has not already occurred more than once, in the step 10 the trainee 3 is sent a notification informing him that he has not completed the corresponding training unit by the time specified in the progress plan. Additionally, the process 1 branches at
35 this point to the step 5 in which a new progress plan is then created. In the new progress plan, those training

- units which have not yet been studied are collectively put back in time, or else longer time intervals are set between the training units which have not yet been studied. In the following step 6, the trainee 3 is presented with the
- 5 training unit which he has not yet studied. The creation of a new progress plan in step 5 has no influence upon the sequence of the training units of the training course. Only when one training unit has been completed is the next training unit made available to the trainee.

10

When all the training units of the training course have been made available to the trainee 3 (enquiry 8), the training course comes to an end.

- 15 It is conceivable that, following the creation of a progress plan (step 5), the progress plan is sent to the trainee 3 (not shown). The training units are made available to the trainee 3 via a computer network (step 6). The computer network can have the form of an in-house
- 20 intranet or the world-wide internet.

- The notification of the trainee 3 (step 10) that he has not completed the corresponding training unit by the time specified in the progress plan, or that the training course
- 25 is being terminated can take place via electronic mail (e-mail).

Claims

1. A process (1) for the automatic creation and monitoring of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit by a computer, characterised by the following steps:
 - definition by the computer of first time units which represent the time periods which a trainee (3) would like to spend on the training course (2),
 - definition by the computer of second time units which represent the time periods required to execute the training units of the training course (4),
 - creation of a progress plan by the computer for the execution of the training course in dependence upon the first time units and the second time units (5), where for each training unit the progress plan specifies a time by which the trainee (3) is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit and
 - monitoring by the computer as to whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan (7).
2. A process (1) according to Claim 1, characterised in that the trainee (3) is notified if the corresponding training unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan (10).
3. A process (1) according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the monitoring result is stored.
4. A process (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the progress plan is recreated (5) if the corresponding training unit has not been

completed by the time specified in the progress plan (9).

5. 5. A process (1) according to Claim 4, characterised in that the training course is terminated if, more than once, the corresponding training unit has not been completed by the time specified in the progress plan (9).
- 10 6. 10 6. A process (1) according to Claim 5, characterised in that the trainee (3) is notified of the termination of the training course (10).
- 15 7. 15 7. A process (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the progress plan is sent to the trainee (3) after its creation.
- 20 8. 20 8. A process (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the training units are made available to the trainee (3) via a computer network (9).
- 25 9. 25 9. A process (1) according to Claim 8, characterised in that the training units are made available to the trainee (3) via an in-house computer network (intranet).
- 30 10. 30 10. A process (1) according to Claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the training units are made available to the trainee (3) via a global computer network, in particular the internet.
- 35 11. 35 11. A process (1) according to Claim 9 or 10, characterised in that the trainee (3) is notified via electronic mail (e-mail).

12. A process (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 11, characterised in that the progress plan is sent to the trainee (3) via electronic mail (e-mail).
- 5 13. A process (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 12, characterised in that the progress plan is made available on a web page to which the trainee (3) has access.
- 10 14. A control element, in particular a compact disc (CD), floppy disc or the like, for a computer on which a program is stored which can run on the computer and is suitable to execute a process according to one of Claims 1 to 13.
- 15
15. A computer for the automatic creation and monitoring of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit, characterised in that the computer comprises:
- 20 - means for defining first time units which represent the time periods which a trainee (3) would like to spend on the training course,
- means for defining second time units which represent the time periods required to execute the training units of the training course,
- 25 - means for the creation by the computer of a progress plan for the execution of the training course in dependence upon the first time units and the second time units, where for each training unit the progress plan specifies a time by which the trainee (3) is expected to have completed the corresponding training unit and
- 30 - means for monitoring by the computer as to whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan.
- 35

16. A computer according to Claim 15, characterised in
that the computer comprises means for notifying the
trainee (3) if the corresponding training unit has not
5 been completed by the time specified in the progress
plan.
17. A computer according to Claim 15 or 16, characterised
in that the computer comprises means for storing the
10 monitoring result.
18. A computer according to one of Claims 15 to 17,
characterised in that the computer comprises means for
sending the progress plan to the trainee (3) after its
15 creation.
19. A computer according to one of Claims 15 to 18,
characterised in that the computer is connected to a
computer network.
20
20. A computer according to Claim 19, characterised in
that the computer is connected to an in-house computer
network (intranet).
- 25 21. A computer according to Claim 19, characterised in
that the computer is connected to a global computer
network, in particular the internet.

Abstract

The invention relates to a process (1) for the automatic creation and monitoring of a progress plan for a training course comprising at least one training unit by a computer.

To increase the efficiency of the training course in a process (1), the invention proposes a process (1) which is characterised by the following steps:

- definition of first time units by the computer (2),
- 10 - definition of second time units by the computer (4),
- creation of a progress plan by the computer for the execution of the training course in dependence upon the first time units and the second time units (5), where for each training unit the progress plan specifies a time by which it is to be completed and
- 15 - monitoring by the computer as to whether the corresponding training unit has been completed by the time specified in the progress plan (7).

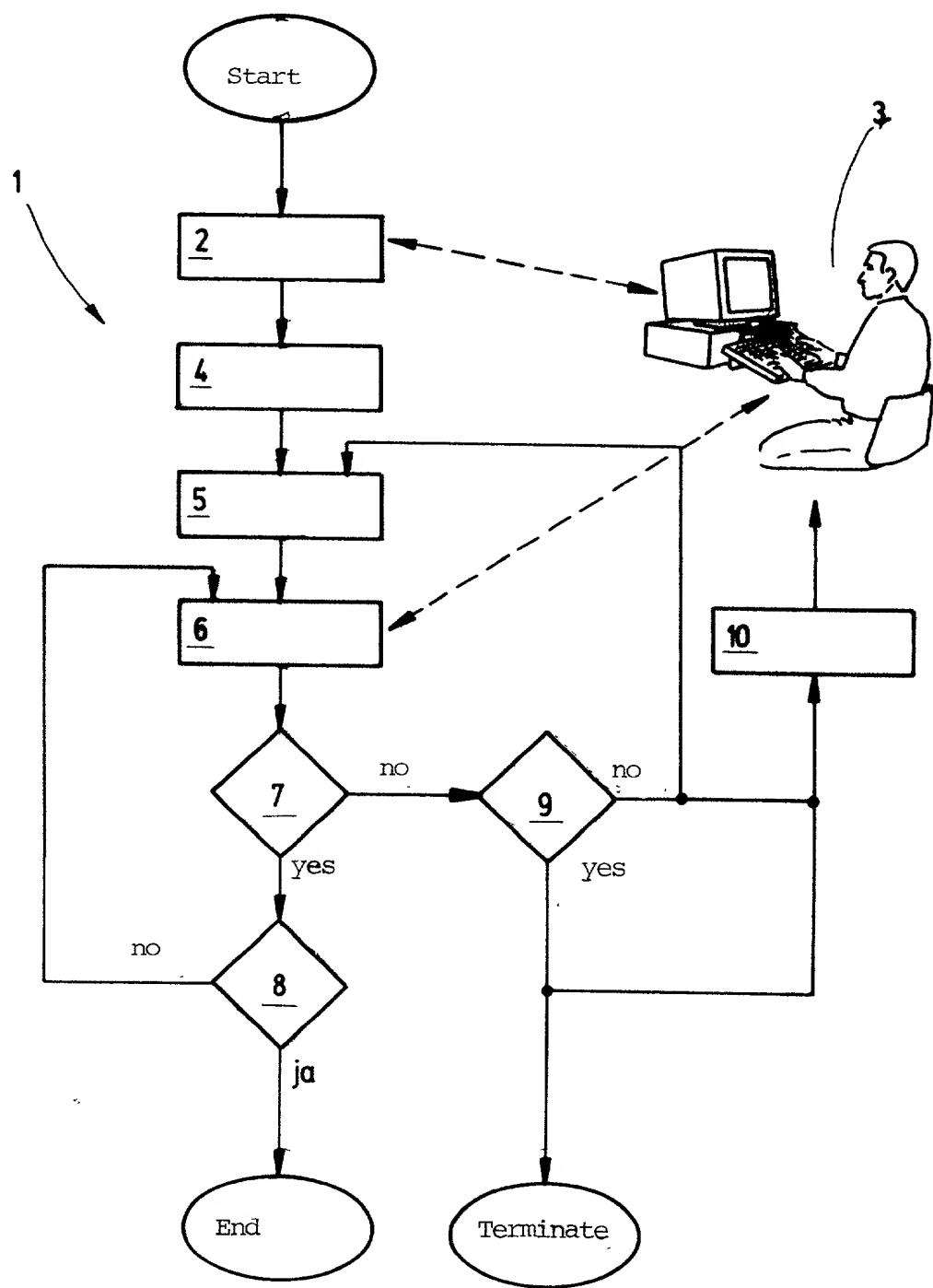


Fig.1

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a-below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe I am an original, first and joint inventor, together with the other inventors listed below, of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled: **A Process for the Automatic Creation and Monitoring of a Progress Plan for a Training Course by a Computer** which application is:

the attached application
(for original application)

Application Serial No:
filed , and amended on

(for declaration not accompanying application)

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, that I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any provisional application or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified on said list any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of any foreign application on which priority is claimed:

Application Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
198 52 896.5	Germany	November 17, 1998	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any information material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status
------------------------	-------------	--------

I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Scott M. Daniels, Reg. No. 32,562; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg. No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765; and Robert M. Masters, Reg. No. 35,603, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to **SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3213.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date	October 26, 1999	First Inventor	Frank	HÄGEBARTH
		First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

Residence	Kirchheim	Germany	Signature	<i>Frank Hägebart</i>
City		State/Country		

Post Office Address:	Heuchelbergstrasse 3
	74366 Kirchheim, Germany

Citizenship	German
-------------	--------